

LICHFIELD
Urban District Council.



TWENTY-FIRST
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health,

G. W. HOMAN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.S.A.

1908.

LICHFIELD :
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Lichfield Urban District Council.

Twenty-first Annual Report OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, 1908.

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors
of the City and County of Lichfield.

I beg to submit to your Council my Report for the year 1908.

The area covered by your district is 3,421 acres, containing a population of 7,902 persons. (Census 1901.)

BIRTHS.

The total number of births registered was 215.

Females	...	...	102
Males	...	...	113

giving a birth-rate per 1000 of population of 27.2. An increase of 5.7 compared with last year.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths registered was 126, giving an average of 15.6 per 1000 of the population.

Of these deaths 39 occurred in the Public Institutions belonging to the district; of these 24 belonged to other districts

(Lichfield Rural, Rugeley, Shire Oak, and Brownhills), giving a net death total for your district (registered here) of 102.

There were 3 deaths in the Birmingham Hospitals of cases belonging to the district, which gives a net death total of all deaths belonging to the district of 105 = to a death rate of 13.2 per thousand of population.

This is the lowest death-rate, with one exception (1905), during the last 10 years.

There were 36 deaths in the Union Workhouse and 3 in the Victoria Nursing Home.

There were 8 inquests held during the year.

Three deaths were uncertified.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The deaths from the principal zymotic diseases during the past ten years have been as follows :—

		Small Pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Typhoid Fever.	Diarrhoea.	Enteritis.	Erysipelas.
1899	...	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0
1900	...	0	2	0	1	11	1	3	0	0
1901	...	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	0
1902	...	0	7	0	0	0	0	2	1	1
1903	...	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	4	0
1904	...	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	7	0
1905	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0
1906	...	0	4	0	0	7	0	0	4	1
1907	...	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	4	1
1908	...	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Eighty-one cases were notified during the year.—(See *Table III.*)

The notifications for the last ten years have been as follow :—

		Small Pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Erysipelas.	Chicken Pox.
1899	...	0	5	1	1	0	12	0
1900	...	0	14	2	3	0	9	0
1901	...	0	7	24	7	0	13	0
1902	...	2	40	9	5	0	11	17
1903	...	4	7	3	0	1	17	29
1904	...	1	8	10	1	1	9	24
1905	...	0	2	0	0	0	11	17
1906	...	0	8	14	1	1	9	18
1907	...	0	21	39	0	1	8	18
1908	...	0	22	8	0	4	10	37

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The number of cases admitted to the Isolation Hospital during the year were—

Scarlet Fever...	..	...	...	14
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	8

The Hospital arrangements are working satisfactorily, under the management of Sister Bangham.

The Thresh Disinfector has been most useful for the disinfection of clothing and bedding, both for cases in the Hospital and outside.

There is still room for considerable improvement in the building used as a Hospital.

Owing to the number of cases of Scarlet Fever admitted from the Rural and Urban Districts, we had to utilize the cottage usually reserved for Diphtheria as Scarlet Fever Wards.

The house accommodation for the Working Classes has again been considerably added to and improved during the year.

During the Autumn there was a widely-spread epidemic of "Mumps," gradually extending and affecting the whole Urban District.

I advised the closing of all the Schools for a period of six weeks—

- (a) Because it was the only means at my disposal of endeavouring to check the spread of infection. I did not consider it advisable to bring children from healthy areas and households into direct touch with children from infected areas and households, many of whom were in the initial stage of the disease while attending the Schools.
- (b) Because I did not think it fair to the parents, that their children should be *compelled* to come into an infected area—especially in the confined space of a school.
- (c) It was represented to me that a considerable loss of the School grant would follow, unless I advised the closure.

There were 2 cases of Puerperal Fever notified to me, having been attended by Registered Midwives.

These cases were reported to Dr. Reid, the County Medical Officer. Their occupation was at once stopped, and the necessary disinfection of houses, clothes, and instruments were carried out by your Authority. The clothes were disinfected in the Steam Disinfector at the Hospital.

Under the Circular of the Local Government Board, December 18th, 1908, all cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Poor Law Institutions, and occurring in the practice of a District Medical Officer, are to be notified to me,

I ask your Council to consider very particularly what steps are to be taken with regard to these cases after notification, as you have no hospital accommodation for them in your District.

The **Sewerage Scheme** is working very satisfactorily. I heartily congratulate your Council on the adoption of the Bacterial treatment of the sewage, which, thanks to the efforts and supervision of your Surveyor, Mr. Chancellor, is working very effectually.

I hope that in a not far distant future you will be able to do away entirely with the Chemical treatment and precipitation of the Sewerage, which will effect a great saving of labour and cost.

I have, with Mr. Chancellor, inspected the effluents of the new beds, under the Bacterial treatment, for many months, and have found them most satisfactory.

The usual inspections of Lodging-houses, Slaughter-houses, Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops, Bakehouses and Workshops, &c., have been made by the Sanitary Inspector and myself. I am glad to note considerable improvement in the sanitary condition generally, and especially in the Cowsheds, although in a few instances there still remains much to be done.

The Regulations concerning Cowsheds and Dairies have been passed by your Council and are working satisfactorily.

The water supply to the City is from the Conduit Lands Trust: it is good in quality and plentiful in quantity.

* Analysis of Conduit Lands Water taken from public tap at 8 a.m. March 6th, 1908, by Dr. Percy Frankland, F.R.S.:—

Total Solid Matters	...	...	27.38	grains per gallon.
Organic Carbon	...	...	.078	,
Organic Nitrogen	...	...	.019	,
Ammonia	...	...	0	,
Nitrogen as Nitrates & Nitrites			.486	,
Total Combined Nitrogen	...		.505	,
Chlorine	...	...	1.77	,
Hardness	{ Temporary Permanent }	7.0 7.8	14.8	,

Remarks :—Almost clear, palatable, free from poisonous metals and nitrites.

* For the Analysis I am indebted to Mr. Chinn, the Warden of the Trust.

Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890, Public Health Act Amendment, 1890, are in force in this district.

The house refuse is collected weekly by the Corporation carts as before.

A considerable number of old midden privies have been done away with and Sanitary Privies or Water Closets have been substituted, and special attention has been paid to the sewer connections: many old defects have been remedied.

I have to express my gratification that your Council has acceded to my request to have Bacteriological examinations made of the milk, as may be required.

This step will aid materially in the discovery of the origin of Tuberculosis, and should prove valuable in keeping in check the spread of this fell disease.

Several samples of milk have been sent up for Bacteriological examination and have been found generally satisfactory.

There was a *suspicion* of Tuberclle Bacillus in one specimen, through which attention was called to the supply, and one cow was found to be in an unhealthy condition. All necessary steps were taken to prevent the milk of this cow being sold for consumption.

Unfortunately you have not the power to *insist* on the Tuberculin Test being made in such a case, and although it was offered free of all cost to the owner of the cow, he declined to allow the test to be made.

The milk supply on the whole is good, and is from local dairies which are keep under strict supervision.

I have to thank the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Pinches, for his constant and zealous work.

GEO. W. HOMAN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.S.A.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Redcourt, Lichfield,

January 9th, 1909.

CITY SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

The weekly collection of domestic refuse and the cleansing of privies and cesspools is undertaken by the Corporation. It is gratifying to be able to report that less paper and rubbish, other than domestic refuse, is placed in ashbins than has hitherto been the practice.

The question of erecting a Dust Destructor, in lieu of the present practice of tipping, is under consideration.

The storm water outfall at Stowe receives weekly attention and the sewers are periodically cleansed and flushed.

A water main has been laid in St. Chad's Road, consequent upon the development of that portion of the City.

A new street (Ivanhoe Road) has been made up under the Private Street Works Act, 1892.

Twelve new houses were erected during the course of the year and seven connections were made to the main sewers.

Valuable experiments in the treatment of sewage have been conducted at the Curborough Sewage Farm, and a comprehensive report has been prepared in connection therewith, which has been duly submitted to Dr. Bostock Hill, the Corporation's adviser upon the matter, for his consideration.

W. B. CHANCELLOR,
City Engineer and Surveyor.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Special attention has, during the past year, been paid to the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops of the City, for the purpose of ensuring a clean milk supply and a healthier condition of the cows generally.

To this end, also, samples of milk have been submitted to bacteriological examination with useful results.

The full effect of the recently-adopted new Bye-laws for Cowsheds, relating to cubic space, &c., comes into operation on the 1st February, 1909; but there is still much room for improvement in the matter of cleanliness of teats and udders, and of the milkers' hands at the time of milking, and to ensure even a probability of these points being attended to, the cowshed must be equipped with the necessary appliances in the shape of sponge, washbowl, soap, towel, &c. In this connection I am of opinion that the Authority who would press for a test case to decide whether the provision of these appliances could be insisted upon under the existing regulations would be doing a real service to the country at large.

Another important matter receiving attention is the condition of the dung heaps and manure pits throughout the City, with a view to their being properly covered and rendered impervious, in accordance with the Bye-law thereto.

The periodical inspection of Slaughter-houses, Workshops, and Common Lodging-houses has been carried out, and in respect to the last named a marked improvement in the general cleanliness and good conduct is discernible.

The conversion of old midden privies to W.C.'s is steadily continued, and the general sanitary improvement of the City is well maintained.

JAMES PINCHES,
Sanitary Inspector.

T A B L E S.

LICHFIELD URBAN DISTRICT.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of whole District during 1908 and previous years.

YEAR.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		DEATHS OF NON- RESIDENTS REGIS- TERED IN PUBLIC INSTITU- TIONS BEYOND THE DISTRICT.		NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.		
	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Number.	Rate.	Under 1 Year of Age.	At all Ages.	Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.
1898	7,865	198	25.2	31	157	158	20.1	27	19
1899	,	215	27.3	24	112	163	20.7	48	34
1900	,	216	27.5	34	157	205	26.1	51	37
1901	,	183	23.2	30	104	169	21.4	40	23
1902	7,902	199	25.7	22	107.3	123	15.5	30	15
1903	199	24	120.6	154	19.2	154	19.2	28	7

1905	,	229	28.6	21	91.1	122	15.2	40	20	2	104	13.0
1906	,	211	26.3	21	99.5	154	19.2	56	28	...	126	15.9
1907	,	170	21.5	16	94.1	141	17.8	48	33	5	113	14.3
Averages for years 1898-1907.		203.7	25.7	26.7	125.5	156.6	19.7	41.6	26.3	...	132.2	16.6
1908	7,902	215	27.2	12	55.8	126	15.6	39	24	3	105	13.2

Area of District in acres
(exclusive of area
covered by water).
3,416

Total population at all ages
Number of Inhabited houses
Average number of persons per house
7,902
1,687
4.7
1901.

I.	Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District.	Union Workhouse.
II.	Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.	Victoria Nursing Home.
III.	Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District.	The Union Workhouse is within the District.

TABLE II.

Not being supplied with the number of Births in each locality, I am unable to fill in Table II., which is practically included in Table I.

TABLE III.
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1908.
LICHFIELD URBAN DISTRICT.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.					TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.					No. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.	
	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.	S. Michael.	S. Mary.	S. Chad.	The Close.	
Small-pox.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (in- cluding Mem- branous group)	8	...	...	5	1	2	...	2	...	6	...	8
Erysipelas	10	...	...	5	16	1	...	1	1	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	7	2	...	14
Typhus Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing Fever.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	3	...	...
Puerperal Fever.....	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Plague	37	4	5	5	28	...	...	26	5	5	...	...
Chicken Pox										1	...	...
Total	81	4	10	49	2	15	1	11	7	4	...	22

The Isolation Hospital is at Curborough, Lichfield.

TABLE IV.
LICHFIELD URBAN DISTRICT.
Causes of, and Ages at, Death, during Year 1908.

Uterine Tumours	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	9	...	...	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3
(See notes at foot)											
Bronchitis	6	...	1	...	3	4	2	2	2	2	4
Pneumonia	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	2	...
Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism	4	...	...	...	3	1	2	1	1	1	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	1
Venereal Diseases	5	5	...	...	...	...	2	2	1	1	...
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Heart Diseases	15	...	1	1	8	6	6	6	2	2	4
Accidents	4	...	1	1	2	...	1	2	1	1	4
Suicides	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis	...	...	2	2	11	25	27	7	4	4	16
All other causes	40	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
All causes	105	12	4	3	...	43	43	58	25	19	3
											39

NOTE.—Under the heading of "Diarrhoea" are included deaths registered as due to epidemic diarrhoea, epidemic enteritis, infective enteritis, symptomotie enteritis, summer diarrhoea, dysentery, and dysenteric diarrhoea, choleraic diarrhoea, cholera, and cholera nostras.

In addition, and as regards deaths of children *under one year of age*, under the heading "Diarrhoea" in column 3 (Table IV.) are included all deaths classified as "Diarrhoeal diseases" in Table V.

Under the heading of "Enteritis" are included only deaths over *one year of age* registered as due to Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis, Gastric catarrh, Gastritis, and Gastro-intestinal catarrh. Deaths from diarrhoea secondary to some other well-defined disease are included under the latter.

Under the headings of "Cancer" and "Puerperal fever" are included all registered deaths from causes comprised within these general terms.

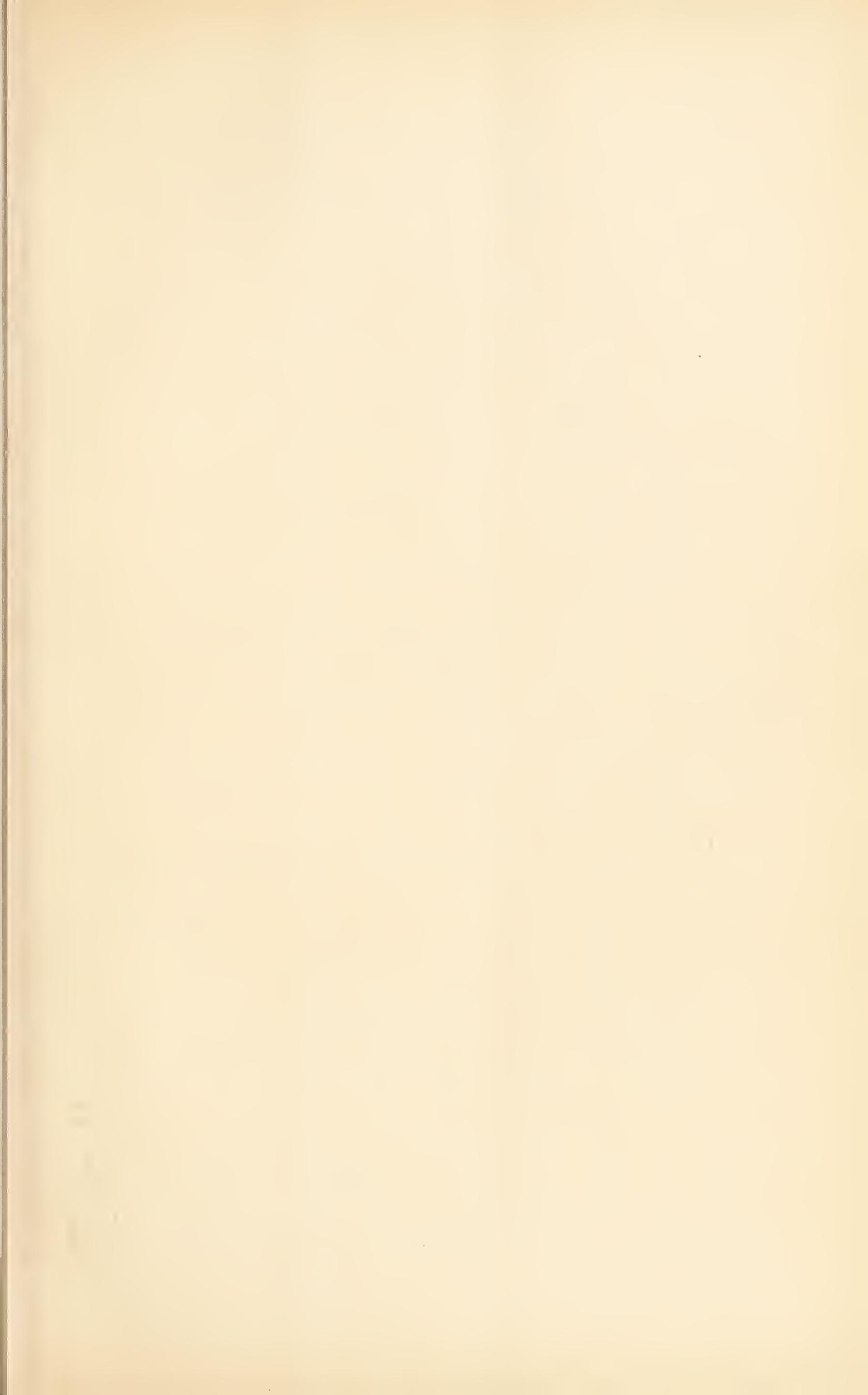


TABLE V.
LICHTFIELD URBAN DISTRICT.
INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1908.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

		CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week.		1-2 Weeks.		2-3 Weeks.		3-4 Weeks.		Total Under 1 Month.		1 Month.		2-3 Months.		4-5 Months.		6-7 Months.		7-8 Months.		9-10 Months.		10-11 Months.		11-12 Months.		Total Deaths under One Year.	
All Causes.		Certified	Uncertified
Common Infectious Diseases.		Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Chicken-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Diphtheria	:	Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoeal Diseases.		Diarrhoea, all forms
(See Notes to Table IV.)		Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis
		Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh

Deaths in the year, 12.
Deaths from all causes at all ages, 105.
Deaths in the year, 12.
Deaths from all causes at all ages, 105.

NOTE.—Under "Congenital Defects" are included deaths from Atelecrosis, Icterus neonatorum, Navel haemorrhage, Malformations and Congenital hydrocephalus.

Under "Tuberculous Meningitis" are included deaths from acute hydrocephalus.

Under "Other Tuberculous Diseases" are included deaths from Tuberculosis, Tuberculosis of bones, joints, and other organs, Lupus and Scrofula.

TABLE VI.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK done in the Nuisance Inspector's Department during the year 1908, in the Urban District of Lichfield.

	Number of Inspections & Observations made.	Defects found.	Abatement Notices.		Nuisances abated after Notice by	
			Informal by Inspector.	Formal by Authority.	Inspector.	Authority.
Dwelling-houses and Schools :						
Foul Conditions	5	5	5	5	5	5
Structural Defects	6	6	6	6	6	6
Overcrowding	3	3	3	3	3	3
Unfit for Habitation ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lodging-houses...	30	...	...	...	...	...
Dairies and Milkshops {	40	4	4	4	4	4
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bakehouses	18	...	...	...	...	...
Slaughter-houses	50	...	...	...	...	...
Canal Boats ... ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ashpits and Privies	60	50	50	50	50	50
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	40	27	27	27	27	27
Water Closets	30	28	28	28	28	28
House Drainage :						
Defective Traps...	8	8	8	8	8	8
No Disconnection ...	8	8	8	8	8	8
Other Faults	40	40	40	40	40	40
Water Supply	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pigsties	18	8	8	8	8	8
Animals improperly kept ...	3	3	3	3	3	3
Offensive Trades ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Smoke Nuisances ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Nuisances	52	52	52	52	50	2
TOTALS	443	243	243	...	241	2
Nos.						
Unwholesome Food... ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	5
Food and Drugs Act ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Precautions against Infectious Disease.						
Lots of Infected Bedding Disinfected or Destroyed... ...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Schools ditto ditto	...	...	...	...	...	10
Prosecutions for not Notifying Existence of Infectious Disease ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convictions ditto ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...
Prosecutions for Exposure of Infected Persons or things ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convictions ditto ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...

(Signed) JAMES PINCHES,
January, 1909.
Inspector of Nuisances.

TABLE VII.
FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION.		Number of Inspections.			Written Notices.			Prosecutions.	
Premises.	Number of Inspections.	Nil.	...
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)...
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	192	...	...	Nil.	...
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises included in part 3 of this Report)	8	...	...	...	...
Total	200	...	...	Nil.	...
2.—DEFECTS FOUND.		Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.			Number of Prosecutions.	
Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—</i>									
Sanitary accommodation (Sec. 22 P. H. A., 1890, adopted Standard)
{ insufficient unsuitable or defective not separate for sexes
Other Nuisances	2	2	...	...
Total	2	2	2	...	...

Nature of Work.

Nature of Work.	Twice in the year.		Once in the year.		Inspections of some Premises, Section 108.
	Lists.	Outworkers.	Lists.	Outworkers.	
Wearing Apparel—					
(1) Making, &c.	2	11	...	1	...
Furniture and Upholstery	2	2	...	2	...
Pea picking...	...	...	9	23	...
Total	...	4	13	60	36

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (Sec. 131) at the end of the year.	Number.	Workshops on the Register (Sec. 131) at the end of the year.	
		Bakehouses (Factory, 2); Workshops, 6	Other Workshops
Total number of Workshops on Register	68	...	...

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.	Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—	
		Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector	Notified by H.M. Inspector
as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5)	...	...	...
Other...	...	...	...
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—	2	...	...
In use at the end of the year	Nil.	...	...

